



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/581,954

06/07/2006

Nargis Abdul Gani

CU-4863 BWH

7388

26530 7590 09/14/2009
LADAS & PARRY LLP
224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 1600
CHICAGO, IL 60604

EXAMINER

HOLT, ANDRIAE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/14/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/581,954	GANI, NARGIS ABDUL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andriae M. Holt	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/26/2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-12 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-12 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This application is in response to Applicant's amendments filed May 26, 2009. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5-6 have been amended. Claim 16 is newly added. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 16 will presently be examined to the extent they read on the elected subject matter of record.

Status of the Claims

Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from the previous Office Action are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections are newly applied. They constitute the complete set of rejections presently being applied to the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant claims a method of repelling or deterring slugs comprising obtaining naturally occurring "secretions" from a ground beetle wherein the "secretions" include at least one acid and applying the beetle secretions to a portion of a plant whereby the slugs are repelled or deterred. It is unclear which naturally occurring secretions applicant is referring. The beetle could have secretions from various sources in the body that contain methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid

Art Unit: 1616

formic acid, and acetic acid. Applicant should indicate the source of the secretions as in claim 5, "ground beetle pygidial gland secretions".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dodds' Publication (1997) in view of the Will Publication (Will et al.) (2000) and Slugs and Snails Publication (2003).

Applicant's Invention

Applicant claims a method of repelling or deterring slugs comprising the steps of obtaining naturally occurring secretions from a ground beetle wherein the secretions include at least one acid selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid and acetic acid and applying the beetle secretions to a portion of a plant.

***Determination of the scope of the content of the prior art
(MPEP 2141.01)***

The Dodds' Publication teaches there are more than 40,000 described species of ground beetles (Carabidae). The Dodds' Publication teaches that adult carabids held in containers emit a characteristic smell caused by the secretions of the defensive pygidial

Art Unit: 1616

glands (page 297, col. 1, paragraph 1). The Dodds' Publication teaches that to investigate whether such emissions could be detected by the potential prey, the field slug, *Deroceras reticulatum*, the chemoreceptors in the epithelial pad at the tip of the posterior tentacle were exposed to beetle volatiles delivered in an airstream. Two species of British Carabidae were tested: *Pterostichus melanarius*, a common species found in many habitats and *Zabrus tenebrioides* (page 297, col. 2, paragraph 1). The Dodds' Publication teaches exposure of the olfactory pad to air from a syringe holding an individual *P. melanarius* induced rapid firing in the olfactory nerve lasting for up to 3 minutes after the application of the stimulus. The Dodds' Publication suggests that *D. reticulatum* may be able to detect the presence of potential beetle predators using airborne cues as do aquatic gastropods using waterborne ones (page 298, col. 1, paragraph 1). The Dodds' Publication teaches the ability to detect predatory carabids at a distance may enable *D. reticulatum* to avoid their vicinity and to prime the secretory system for rapid mucus discharge if attacked (page 298, col. 2, paragraph 2).

**Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims
(MPEP 2141.02)**

Dodds' Publication do not teach the secretions contain methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid, or acetic acid or the application surface is a portion of a plant or that the plant is a pea plant. It is for this reason Will et al. and Slugs and Snails Publication are joined as secondary references.

Will et al. disclose that ground beetles (Carabidae) are well known for their bold chemical signals involving, oozing, spraying and crepitating irritating mixtures of polar and nonpolar compounds (page 460, Introduction). Will et al. disclose that material for

Art Unit: 1616

chemical analysis were obtained either by removal of gland reservoirs, or as secretion discharged on filter paper. Will et al. further disclose for gland removal, live beetles were placed in a freezer for several minutes and dissected under distilled water. Will et al. disclose whole gland reservoirs were placed in dry-ice cooled reaction vials. Will et al. disclose to collect discharged secretion on filter paper, beetles were held by one leg with forceps and a small strip of filter paper was held near the beetle to catch the secretion as it was sprayed. Will et al. disclose to prevent premature discharge; beetles were temporarily incapacitated by cooling them and then allowed to warm to room temperature while under observation. Will et al. disclose that once beetles became active, defensive secretions was collected on a piece of filter paper (obtaining naturally occurring secretions, instant application) (page 461, Collection of secretion for chemical analysis).

Will et al. disclose in Table 1 on page 463, the different tribes of beetles and the secretions produced. Will et al. disclose the acids include formic, acetic, methacrylic and tiglic acids (methacrylic, formic, acetic and tiglic acids, instant invention). Will et al. disclose the primarily methacrylic and tiglic acid producing tribes *Pterostichini* and *Zabrinini* are very diverse in the temperate region (methacrylic and tiglic acid, instant invention) (page 477, paragraph 2). Will et al. disclose that Blum speculated that the occurrence of formic acid ant alarm pheromone in fast moving arthropods, like ground beetles, had evolved to chemically "hide" a beetle that was in conflict with ants. Will et al. further disclose the discharge of this mixture of chemicals could first deter the immediate threat by its irritating effect (page 477, paragraph 3).

The Slugs and Snails Publication discloses that in the 1850s, French immigrant Antoine Delmas brought snails to California so he would have an ample supply of escargot. The Slugs and Snails Publication discloses the offspring of those original snails destroy millions of dollars worth of California produce every year. The Slugs and Snails Publication further discloses to protect gardens easy solutions can be followed. The Slugs and Snails Publication discloses that equal parts of Heinz White Vinegar and water are mixed in a trigger-spray bottle, patrol garden at night, and spray the solution directly on slugs. The Slugs and Snails Publication further discloses the gastropods die almost immediately. It is known in the art that vinegar is acetic acid, therefore mixing vinegar and water is mixing acetic acid and water.

Finding of prima facie obviousness
Rationale and Motivation (MPEP 2142-2143)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of the Dodds' Publication, Will et al., and the Slugs and Snails Publication and know that the secretions contain methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid, or acetic acid. One skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have known that the secretions secreted by the ground beetle as taught in the Dodds' Publication contain the various acids because Will et al. teach that acids produced include formic, acetic, methacrylic and tiglic acids and that *Pterostichini* and *Zabrinini species* (the species taught by Dodds' Publication) primarily produce methacrylic and tiglic acids. As such, the skilled artisan would have been motivated to use the secretions produced by the ground beetle to repel slugs as the Dodds'

Art Unit: 1616

Publication teaches that odor from the secretions gives *D. reticulatum* (slug) the ability to detect predatory carabids at a distance. This will enable *D. reticulatum* to avoid their vicinity and to prime the secretory system for rapid mucus discharge if attacked.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of the Dodds' Publication, Will et al., and the Slugs and Snails Publication and apply the secretions to a plant surface. One skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use the natural secretions of a ground beetle and apply the secretions to a plant surface because the Slugs and Snails Publication teaches that vinegar (acetic acid) can be applied to plants and slugs to protect the plants from slug damage. Therefore, the skilled artisan would have a reasonable expectation of success in applying the natural secretions of a ground beetle, which includes acetic acid; to a plant surface to repel or kill slugs as the chemicals are known irritants and cytotoxins.

Each of the references is silent to the plant being a pea plant, however, the compositions of the prior art, particularly, the combination of the teachings of Dodds' Publication and Will et al., are the same as Applicant's composition, naturally obtained secretions of ground beetles that contain formic acid, acetic acid and tiglic acid. Thus, the skilled artisan would recognize that a composition is inseparable from its properties. Hence, all the properties associated with Applicant's compositions would also be possessed by the compositions of the prior art and that the compositions can be applied to pea plants.

Given the state of the art as evidenced by the teachings of the cited references, and absent any evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success in combining the teachings of the cited references to produce a slug repellent from ground beetle secretions that are known irritants and cytotoxins.

Therefore, the claimed invention as a whole would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because every element of the invention has been fairly suggested by the cited reference.

Claims 5-12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bug Juice Spray (2000) and Curative Control (2004) in view of the Will Publication (2000).

Applicant's Invention

Applicant claims composition comprising water; and ground beetle pygidial gland secretion comprising at least one acid selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid, and acetic acid.

Determination of the scope of the content of the prior art (MPEP 2141.01)

The Bug Juice Spray Publication teaches that crushing insects, especially those that are the pests you are trying to rid yourself of, can be helpful in that it releases that insects "alarm pheromone". This in turn tells other insects to stay away because they found peril in this area. The Bug Juice Spray Publication teaches it also tells the insect's predator that, "hey, we can find a meal in the yard, follow me!" (paragraph 2). The bug

Art Unit: 1616

Juice Spray Publication teaches to make the juice of bug stuff, collect a half cup of the problem insect(s). Place in a blender or mash with a mortar and pestle or some other way until really juicy. Add 2 cups of water to the bugs, liquefy. Dilute 1/4 cup of juice with 1 or 2 cups of water in a small sprayer (paragraph 4). Spray both sides of leaves.

The Curative Control Publication teaches how to make bug juice spray. Materials needed include 1/2 cup of beetles, mortar and pestle or grinder, and strainer. The method of preparation includes pound or grind beetles in 2 cups of water, strain, and dilute 1/4 cup of this concentrate in 1-2 cups water. Use the spray to control the same pest species that is in the mixture. The odor of crushed beetles sprayed on the plants repels new beetles of the same species to come. The odor also attracts the natural enemies (entire document).

**Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims
(MPEP 2141.02)**

The Bug Juice Spray Publication and The Curative Control Publication do not teach the specific use of ground beetle secretions that contain methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid, or acetic acid. It is for this reason Will et al. is joined as a secondary reference.

The teachings of Will et al. with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is hereby incorporated and are therefore applied in the instant rejection as discussed above.

Finding of prima facie obviousness
Rationale and Motivation (MPEP 2142-2143)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of the Bug Juice Spray Publication, the Curative Control Publication and Will et al. and use ground beetle secretions containing methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid, or acetic acid. The Bug Juice Spray Publication and the Curative Control Publication each teach the use of ground or pulverized bugs, particularly beetles, combined with water to produce a spray that control pests. The publications teach crushing the insects releases the insects "alarm pheromone". One skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use ground beetle in bug juice spray preparation because Will et al. teach that the defensive acids produced from ground beetles include formic, acetic, methacrylic and tiglic acids and that *Pterostichini* and *Zabrinini* species primarily produce methacrylic and tiglic acid. As such, the skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of success that the ground or pulverized ground beetle used in a bug juice spray would contain the alarm pheromones because the secretions would be released as the beetles are crushed.

Therefore, the claimed invention as a whole would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because every element of the invention has been fairly suggested by the cited reference.

Art Unit: 1616

None of the claims are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andriae M. Holt whose telephone number is (571)272-9328. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richter Johann can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andriae M. Holt
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1616

/John Pak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616

Application/Control Number: 10/581,954
Art Unit: 1616

Page 12